

IN THE CLAIMS

A listing of all claims and their current status in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c) is provided below.

1-55. (canceled)

56. (currently amended) A method for providing multi-class processing of login requests comprising:

associating a login cookie class with a login cookie; ~~and~~

providing a level of service to login attempts associated with the login cookie based on the login cookie class of the login cookie; and

requiring a longer time delay for a second-class login cookie than for a first-class login cookie between an invalid login attempt and allowing a subsequent login attempt.

57. (canceled)

58. (currently amended) The method of claim 56 wherein providing a level of service to login attempts associated with the login cookie based on the login cookie class of the login cookie further comprises:

~~invalidates~~ invalidating the subsequent login attempt for the second-class login before a user name and password are processed responsive to the subsequent login attempt being performed before the expiration of the longer time delay.

59. (currently amended) The method of claim 56 wherein providing a level of service to login attempts associated with the login cookie based on the login cookie class of the login cookie further comprises:

serializing login attempts made without a ~~first-class~~ login cookie designated as first-class.

60. (currently amended) The method of claim 56 wherein providing a level of service to login attempts associated with the login cookie based on the login cookie class of the login cookie further comprises:

~~providing a limited number of invalid, consecutive login attempts for a class of login cookie; and~~

responsive to no invalid consecutive login attempts since a previous valid login ~~the limited number being zero~~, associating a different class of login cookie with a more preferential level of service with the login cookie.

61. (previously presented) The method of claim 56 wherein providing a level of service to login attempts associated with the login cookie based on the login cookie class of the login cookie further comprises:

processing a login attempt associated with a class with a less preferential level of service at a slower defined rate than another class with a more preferential level of service based on a login state which defines a rate at which a server can process login attempts.

62. (currently amended) A computer program product for use in conjunction with a computer system, the computer program product comprising a computer readable storage medium and a

computer program mechanism embedded therein, the computer program mechanism comprising:

instructions for associating a login cookie class with a login cookie; ~~and~~

instructions for providing a level of service to login attempts associated with the login cookie based on the login cookie class of the login cookie; and

instructions requiring a longer time delay for a second-class login cookie than for a first-class login cookie between an invalid login attempt and allowing a subsequent login attempt.

63. (new) A method for providing multi-class processing of login requests to resist unauthorized access attempts comprising:

providing a client with a first-class login token when the client successfully logs into an account, wherein the first-class login token entitles the client to one or more unsuccessful login attempts without requiring a delay between the unsuccessful login attempts;

requiring a delay between attempts to log into the account if a second-class login token or an expired first-class login token is utilized by the client; and

rejecting login attempts by the client when the client does not utilize any class of login token.

64. (new) The method of claim 63, comprising providing the client with the second-class login token for a subsequent login attempt if the client does not utilize any class of login token.